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COUNTRY

East Germany

Approved For Release 2003/12/18 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000800330010-6

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TOPIC

Merseburg Airfield

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 3 to 29 January 1953

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED 11 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. From 3 through 16 January 1953, no air activity was observed at Merseburg airfield. Throughout the reported period, eight canvas-covered MIG-15s were parked about 10 meters apart near the eastern end of the runway. Snow at the field was about 20 cm deep. The AAA emplacement at the north side of the installation appeared to be unoccupied.
2. From 13 through 19 January, no air activity was observed at the field. The weather was overcast and the ceiling was at altitudes from 500 to 1,000 meters. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on 20 January, individual local training flights were made. There were patches of snow on the runway. The weather was overcast. The following observations were made from 22 through 29 January:
- 22 January. From 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., individual MIG-15s made local training flights at altitudes from 500 to 2,000 meters. The weather was overcast.
- 23 January. From 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. individual local training flights were made at an altitude of under 1,000 meters. The weather was overcast.
- 24 January. There was no air activity. The weather was overcast.
- 25 January. At 9:40 a.m., the two flights parked at the eastern edge of the field took off. Flights of 30 to 50 minutes' duration were made above the clouds until 2:30 p.m. The ceiling which was at an altitude of from 1,000 to 3,000 meters was pierced individually or by groups of 2, 4, and 8 planes, which kept very good flight formation. Planes participated in flying.
- 26 and 27 January. No air activity was observed. The cloud ceiling was at an altitude of 500 to 1,000 meters.
- 28 January. From 9:40 a.m. to 2 p.m., formations of two and four planes made training flights above the clouds, which were at an altitude of about 500 meters.
- The planes pierced the clouds in good flight formation. Plane was observed flying circles over the field.
- 29 January. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., individual local training flights were made. The cloud ceiling was at an altitude of upward of 300 meters.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/

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25X1 3. Truck [] was identified at the field.²

25X1 [] Comment. The photographs were made from the northern edge of the field and show the three hangars, the flight control station, and some other buildings at the installations.

25X1 [] Comment. A fighter regiment is stationed at Merseburg airfield. It was previously reported that planes of this regiment practiced the piercing of cloud ceilings.

Photographs forwarded to Air (4 prints)

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